existing health infrastructure and surveillance system involving training of medical and para-medical personnel, upgradation of laboratories, and improvement in communication system. The programme is currently being implemented in 100 districts.

Under the Tenth Five Year Plan, a Project Implementation Plan, integrating various activities under the programme is under preparation so as to strengthen the existing surveillance system at the district, State and National levels and to build up additional capacities for effective communication and technology, upgradation of laboratories etc., ensure involvement of public and private sector institutions, private practioners and NGOs in the process of effective implementation of disease surveillance programme. This would integrate non-communicable diseases also in the programme, develop proper urban surveillance systems, and optimize the utilization of available resources and to bring about effective inter-sectoral cooperation among various agencies in the Health and Non-Health Sector.

Sale of kidneys in Assam

2272. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Youth put up their kidneys for sale", which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated the 18th March, 2002;

(b) whether jobless and penniless rural youths in Assam are on active sale of their kidneys and they are within their rights to sell their kidneys as per the local authorities?

(c) if so, whether Government would ban the sale of parts of the body by individuals; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has got no such specific information except what

has come in the media. As per sub-section 1 and 3 section 9 of the Transplantation of Human Act, 1994, it is illegal to sell any human organ including kidneys.

(c) Sale of human organs is already banned under the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994. State of Assam has adopted this act, which have the sale of such Organs.

(d) Does not arise.

Privatisation package of Jessop

2273. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pre-conditions of privatization package of Jessop are waiver of loan and interest burden and purchase preference from Railways;

(b) whether the same conditions were recommended by BIFR for revival of Jessop; and

(c) the reasons for non-acceptance of BIFR recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) No, Sir. In fact privatization is a pre-condition to the extension of waiver of loan and interest burden and purchase preference from Railway to M/s. Jessop & Company Limited.

(b) In 1997 and 1998, Government of India (GOI) infused fresh funds of Rs. 54 crore and provided financial restructuring of Rs. 171 crore to the company as a part of the BIFR revival scheme. In addition, GOI has released fresh funds of Rs. 118 crore for salary and wages, VRS, statutory dues and capital expenditure during the last two years. The company, however, failed to turnaround and the BIFR declared the revival scheme of the company as failed on 17.8.2000 and ordered change of management, which did not succeed. On GOI's request, instead of issuing winding up notice, the BIFR allowed another attempt at joint venture formation.

(c) Does not arise.